79-1279

Mr. Allen R. McCreight
F.O.I. Branch
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C...20535.

17 November 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petros, TN.37845.

FILED

JUL 16 1979

JAMES F. DAVEY, Clerk

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended (5 U.S.C. § 552).

I write to request all files in the below listed subject matter. I am unaware of the name the files are indexted under therefore I will be specific in my requests. I do know they pertain to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr. homicide.

1) Just recently I wrote to Sheriff Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff of Alcorn County, Mississippi providing him a diagram of a Motel I stayed over-night in begining on 1st April 1968. The name of the Motel is the "Southern". Subsequently Sheriff Coleman informed the F.B.I. and the burea's Mississippi office confiscate said Motel files, logs, registration cards, ect. & apparently told the owner of said Motel to deny I was ever a quest in the establishment, in Corinth, Miss. I hereby request a phot-copy of all papers taken from said Motel.

2) Just recently a Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives has accused me of robbing a Bank on July 13, 1967. The Bank is/was located in Alton, Illinois.
I hereby request the information as follow in respect to said Bank Robbery:

A. Copies of all statements made by Bank employees who were witnesses to the Robbery.

B. Records of any suspects in the Robbery.

C. The type of Automobile, ect., use in said Robbery if any.

D. The type of weapons used in said Robbery.

E. Any other Documents in the F.B.I. files which would clarify this matter.

If you determine that some or all of the requested information is exempt from release, I would appreciate your advising me as to which exemptions you believe covers the information which you are not releasing.

MP 3/15

Exhibit A

I am prepared to pay costs specified in your regulations for locating the requested files and reproducing them; however, as you know the Amended Act permits you to reduce or waive fees, if that "is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the public". I believe this request plainly fits that category in that I do not request said files for any financial gain, resale, ect., but to avail them to said Seledt Committee and the Free Press if the press wishes the Documents. Therefore I ask you to waive any fees.

As provided in the amended Act, I will expect to receive a reply within ten working days.

Sincerely: James G Ray

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF MORGAN)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of November, 1978.

My Commission expires October 17, 1982.

Notary public Brenda F. Dagley.

cc: Select Committee

cc: United pres International.

exempted from these documents, as well as from the documents contained in Volume VIII of the HSCA Hearings pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA, Title 5, United States Code Section 552. The documents are listed numerically by the numbers appearing in the upper right corner of each document, after which are listed the serial numbers as each document appears in FBI files. In some instances there is no FBI serial number and the document is listed as "not recorded." This means that the document is present in the file, but was not assigned a serial number. The description of the document, number of actual pages and number of pages released, description of material withheld and exemptions asserted are also set forth. There then follows a cross-reference to the appropriate portion(s) of paragaph (10), supra.

(12) Identification of Records Within the Scope of Plaintiff's Request

(A) With regard to the FBI file system and the processing of plaintiff's FOIA request, the following description may be of assistance: Administrative, applicant, personnel, general and investigative files compiled for law enforcement purposes are maintained in the FBI Central Records System. A notice describing this system was published at 40 Federal Register 167 (August 27, 1975). The FBI Central Records System consists of one numerical sequence of files broken down according to subject matter. The subject matter of a file may relate to an individual, organization, company, publication or foreign intelligence activity. Access to this system is afforded by the FBI's General Indices arranged in alphabetical order, consisting of approximately 59 million index cards on various subject matters, including names of individuals. The index cards fall into two general categories:

"Main" index cards and "See" (short for "see references or cross-references") index cards. A "main" card carries the name of an individual, organization, activity or the like, which is the main subject of a file contained in the system. A "see" reference card bears the name of an individual, organization, activity or the like, which is referred to or indexed in, but is not the main subject of that particular file maintained in the system. Generally, "see" references contain insufficient information by which a positive identification can be made with a given name. In many instances, receipt of additional information can assist in making a positive identification, or in locating the file in which the requested information is maintained. Furthermore, it should be noted that the FBI indexes neither all names of individuals contacted nor all information received during an investigation. Only those names and that information which is considered pertinent, relevant and necessary for future retrieval are indexed.

(B) In response to plaintiff's request, a search of the General Indices was conducted in order to identify the records in the Central Records System determined to be within the scope of plaintiff's request for information regarding the robbery of the Bank of Alton on July 13, 1967. As a result of this search, a main file was located regarding the FBI's investigation into this matter. It was subsequently ascertained that material contained in this file had been published in Volume VIII of the HSCA Hearings. To determine whether the entire file was included in this volume, a page by page review was executed, comparing the raw file to the published material. As a result of this comparison, seven pages were found to have not been published and were subsequently processed for release to plaintiff.

With respect to plaintiff's request regarding the Southern Motel, however, the responsive records were located in the Congressional Inquiry Unit (CIU) at FBIHQ. This was because the letters and attachments provided by plaintiff to Sheriff Coleman were still being researched and considered by CIU at the time of plaintiff's request, and those documents generated between the Jackson and Memphis Field Offices and FBIHQ continued to be maintained by the CIU concerning this matter. Since those particular documents relative to this aspect of plaintiff's request had not as of that time been forwarded to the FBI's Central Records System for filing, the search necessary to eventually locate these documents had to be accomplished by and within the CIU.

(C) Attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit I are the documents at issue in this suit. Each document has been assigned a number for identification purposes. Documents numbered 1 through 6 concern records dealing with the Southern Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and Sheriff Edwin B. Coleman of Alcorn County, Mississippi. Documents numbered 7 through 9 are those pages of documents from the FBI file on the robbery of the Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, on July 13, 1967, which were not published in Volume VIII of HSCA testimony. Documents numbered 10 through 25 are documents dealing with the Alton bank robbery which were published in the above volume, and in which deletions were made. Due to the reduced size of the pages as they appear in Volume VIII, copies have been made from the FBI documents themselves.

From my examination of each of the documents so identified, I have concluded that every document was compiled and maintained for a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Tron W. Brekke
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of July, 1979.

Luellnn Wolesiagle
Notary Public

My Commission expires April 30, 1981.